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GENERAL

1. British release aircraft to Chinese Communists--US Consul General Rankin in Hong Kong reports that the British court in Hong Kong has lifted the injunction involving the assets of two Chinese airlines and that only registration formalities remain to be accomplished before the Communists fly the aircraft away. Rankin believes that the actions of Hong Kong executive and judicial authorities can be explained only if they have been in possession of highly secret instructions from London to see that the Communists obtain the aircraft under any circumstances. Rankin points out that this action demonstrates a fundamental divergence between the US and British attitudes toward Communist China.

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State Dept. review completed

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